

REMARKS

Claims 5-12 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 5-7 have been amended and claims 1-4 have been canceled.

In paragraph 4, on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 9-12 were allowed.

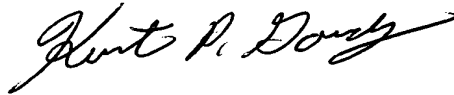
In paragraph 5, on page 3 of the Office Action, claim 6-8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 6 and 7 have been rewritten in independent form and claim 5 has been amended to depend from claim 7.

In paragraph 2, on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kikuchi et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,666,871. The rejection has been rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1-4 and the amendment to claim 5.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 5-8, in addition to previously allowed claims 9-12, are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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